

1 **CLAIMS**

2 1. A method comprising:

3 receiving source information from at least one source of one or more
4 television programs, the source information describing one or more broadcast
5 events that can occur during a time period within which television programs are
6 broadcast;

7 evaluating the source information against user information that gives an
8 indication of broadcast events that are of interest to a user; and

9 making one or more broadcast events available to one or more users if, as a
10 result of said evaluating, it appears that the one or more users would be interested
11 in said one or more broadcast events.

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13 2. The method of claim 1, wherein one or more broadcast events do not pertain
14 to information associated with the television programs.

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16 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of making comprises displaying one
17 or more broadcast events for a user.

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19 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of making comprises recording one
20 or more broadcast events for a user.

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22 5. The method of claim 1, wherein said acts are performed by a television set.

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24 6. The method of claim 1, wherein said acts are performed by a set-top box.

1 7. A method comprising:

2 receiving source information from at least one source of one or more
3 television programs, the source information describing one or more broadcast
4 events that can occur during a time period within which the television programs
5 are broadcast;

6 evaluating the source information against user information that gives an
7 indication of broadcast events that are of interest to a user; and

8 making one or more broadcast events available to one or more users if, as a
9 result of said evaluating, it appears that the one or more users would be interested
10 in said one or more broadcast events, said act of making being performed
11 independent of whether a user is operating a television on which the television
12 programs can be played.

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14 8. The method of claim 7, wherein one or more broadcast events do not pertain
15 to information associated with the television programs.

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17 9. The method of claim 7, wherein said act of making comprises recording one
18 or more broadcast events for a user.

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20 10. The method of claim 7, wherein said acts are performed by a television set.

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22 11. The method of claim 7, wherein said acts are performed by a set-top box.

1 12. A method comprising:

2 receiving user information from a user, the user information describing one
3 or more broadcast events that can occur during a time period in which television
4 programs are broadcast;

5 receiving source information from one or more sources of television
6 programs;

7 evaluating the source information to determine whether any of the one or
8 more broadcast events that have been specified by a user occur; and

9 if one or more broadcast events occur, making an occurring broadcast event
10 available for a user to watch.

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12 13. The method of claim 12, wherein said act of making comprises generating
13 and sending a notification to the user.

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15 14. The method of claim 12, wherein said act of making comprises recording
16 an occurring broadcast event.

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18 15. The method of claim 12, wherein said acts of receiving source information,
19 evaluating and making occur independent of whether a television on which
20 programs can be played is turned on for playing programs.

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22 16. The method of claim 12, wherein said acts of receiving source information,
23 evaluating and making are performed by a television.

1 17. The method of claim 12, wherein said acts of receiving, evaluating and
2 making are performed by a set top box.

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4 18. The method of claim 12, wherein said acts of receiving source information,
5 evaluating and making are performed relative to a television program that the user
6 is not currently watching.

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8 19. The method of claim 12, wherein said acts of receiving source information,
9 evaluating and making are performed relative to a television program that the user
10 is not currently watching and during a time period when a different television
11 program is playing on a television.

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13 20. A method comprising:

14 receiving source information from at least one source of one or more
15 television programs, the source information describing one or more subjects that
16 can occur during a time period within which the television programs are broadcast;

17 evaluating the source information against user information that gives an
18 indication of subjects that are of interest to a user; and

19 making one or more subjects available to one or more users if, as a result of
20 said evaluating, it appears that the one or more users would be interested in said
21 one or more subjects.

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23 21. The method of claim 20, wherein said one or more subjects do not pertain
24 to subjects presented in the television programs.

1 22. The method of claim 20, wherein said one or more subjects comprise
2 subjects presented outside of the television programs.

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4 23. The method of claim 20, wherein said act of making comprises displaying
5 information associated with one or more subjects for a user.

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7 24. The method of claim 20, wherein said act of making comprises recording
8 information associated with one or more subjects for a user.

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10 25. The method of claim 20, wherein said acts are performed by a television
11 set.

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13 26. The method of claim 20, wherein said acts are performed by a set-top box.

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15 27. A method comprising:

16 receiving source information from at least one source of one or more
17 television programs, the source information describing one or more subjects that
18 can occur during a time period within which the television programs are broadcast;

19 evaluating the source information against user information that gives an
20 indication of subjects that are of interest to a user; and

21 making one or more subjects available to one or more users if, as a result of
22 said evaluating, it appears that the one or more users would be interested in said
23 one or more subjects, said act of making being performed independent of whether
24 a user is watching a television program as it is being broadcast.

1 **28.** The method of claim 27, wherein said one or more subjects do not pertain
2 to information presented by the television program.

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4 **29.** The method of claim 27, wherein said act of making comprises recording
5 information associated with one or more subjects for a user.

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7 **30.** The method of claim 27, wherein said acts are performed by a television
8 set.

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10 **31.** The method of claim 27, wherein said acts are performed by a set-top box.

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12 **32.** A method comprising:

13 receiving user information from a user, the user information describing one
14 or more subjects that can occur during a time period in which television programs
15 are broadcast;

16 receiving source information from a source of television programs;

17 evaluating the source information to determine whether any of the one or
18 more subjects that have been specified by a user occur; and

19 in an event one or more subjects occur, making information associated with
20 an occurring subject available for a user to watch.

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22 **33.** The method of claim 32, wherein said act of making comprises generating
23 and sending a notification to the user.

1 34. The method of claim 32, wherein said act of making comprises recording
2 information associated with said one or more subjects.

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4 35. The method of claim 32, wherein said acts of receiving source information,
5 evaluating and making occur independent of whether a user is watching television
6 programs.

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8 36. The method of claim 32, wherein said acts of receiving source information,
9 evaluating and making are performed by a television.

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11 37. The method of claim 32, wherein said acts of receiving, evaluating and
12 making are performed by a set top box.

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14 38. The method of claim 32, wherein said acts of receiving source information,
15 evaluating and making are performed relative to a television program that the user
16 is not currently watching.

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18 39. The method of claim 32, wherein said acts of receiving source information,
19 evaluating and making are performed relative to a television program that the user
20 is not currently watching and during a time period when a different television
21 program is running on a television.